

WANDERERS
SHATTERED
AT HENDON

WYCOMBE Wanderers fell to their heaviest league defeat for two seasons on Tuesday night when they visited Hendon at Claremont Road. It was their second reverse of the season and unless they can improve drastically on this performance, it won't be their last.

After their fine form in the pre-season friendlies and also in flashes against Tooting, things have gone a little sour on Wycombe despite Saturday's win at Dulwich. Certainly on Tuesday, all the promising teamwork seen in the early matches had disappeared and although there was no lack of effort, it is a long time since Wanderers made so many errors in 90 minutes.

Manager Ted Powell has rightly asked for patience from supporters in these early days but if they are to maintain their interest he must somehow find a way of cancelling out on the number of basic mistakes amongst his team. Basics like trapping a ball and passing with a reasonable degree of accuracy went sadly wrong for the Blues against Hendon, who had lost two and drawn one of their previous three matches without scoring a single goal.

When the fundamental skills of the game go wrong it leaves precious little margin for the finer arts, and consequently, Wycombe were seldom able to build many dangerous attacks. They had enough of the ball but wasted much of the possession by giving back to their opponents through poor distribution.

The Blues struggled particularly in midfield where they were up against three formidable home players who completely dominated events. Alan Davies was out of touch and was given only a half before Glen Swaby took over. One could hardly blame young Swaby for not making any significant change to Wycombe's problems for he, like so many of the players, received little support despite constant pleas from the touchline.

Howard Kennedy could make little impression against Rod Haider and gave an erratic service to the front runners, who once again had a lean time of things. Short of height up front, it makes sense to play the ball on the ground as much as possible and too many aerial passes were eaten up by the Hendon defence.

Tony Horseman replaced Dylan Evans from Saturday's team and although Wycombe won a corner straight from the kick off it was Hendon who set the game alight when former Wanderer Gary Hand hit an upright with a 20 yard shot that left Peter Spittle stranded. The goalkeeper reacted quickly to save the rebound from John Butterfield.

This gave Hendon all the encouragement they needed and with the veteran Bobby Childs a constant thorn in Wycombe's flesh, it was no surprise when the home side took the lead after 10 minutes. Hand's free kick was nodded on by Peter Anderson, another ex-Wycombe player, and Butterfield was left with time to knock the ball home at the far post.

MORE POSITIVE

Hendon continued to look the more positive side, their short passing game giving Wycombe's defence several problems. In contrast Wanderers were unable to create chances as attacks broke down regularly through rank bad passing. It was 25 minutes before they had their first crack at goal.

Good work by George Cleary, who again disappointed, set up a chance for Mick Hollifield but

By STUART EARP Hendon 3, Wycombe 0

his full blooded drive was brilliantly turned over by Mal Dalrymple. Ten minutes later Keith Mead went close to equalising when Kennedy and Hollifield did the spadework. Keith drove his shot only inches past the far post from a narrow angle.

In the 36th minute, however, Hendon went 2-0 up with their second set-piece goal. Childs' corner swung viciously into the six yard box where Alan Campbell launched himself into a diving header which was blocked on the line. In the ensuing melee Haider scrambled the ball into the net.

Centre back Campbell was injured in a rare moment of Wycombe pressure inside the

home area and Hendon finished the half with 10 men. Despite the loss, and a half time substitution, Hendon continued to look the more organised side.

There were anxious moments for both goalkeepers in the opening minutes after the break. Dalrymple failed to cut out a cross from Pearson but Wycombe were unable to capitalise and at the other end Kennedy's back pass fell short and Spittle had to dive bravely in front of a home forward to cut out the danger.

Hollifield might have pulled a goal back in the 66th minute when he drove wide from Dave Bullock's long throw and although Wycombe began to push forward more and more, they were still unable to trouble

Dalrymple through their lack of teamwork and cohesion.

It was when Wanderers were pushing up in search of a goal that Hendon clinched their £40 bonus. Mick O'Donogue received a clearance on half way and set off for goal. Beating two tackles he was on the edge of the box when he let fly with a glorious left foot drive that flew over the helpless Spittle and into the net — a brilliant goal.

HENDON: M. Dalrymple; M. Cooper, P. Deadman, A. Campbell (sub D. Holder 45 mins), G. Hand; P. Anderson, R. Haider, R. Childs; M. O'Donogue, J. Butterfield, R. O'Callaghan.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, D. Bullock; A. Davies (sub G. Swaby 45 mins), H. Kennedy, M. Hollifield; G. Cleary, A. Horseman, I. Pearson.

Referee: P. Robinson.
Half-time: 2-0. **Goalscorers:** Hendon — Butterfield (10), Haider (36), O'Donogue (83).